

Welfare of Marginalised Communities

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Today, the whole world is going through a crisis due to the Covid-19 pandemic, which has had a severe impact on India as well, and it has affected the marginal communities the most. But even in this difficult time, every possible effort is being made to ensure that the Ministry works diligently to provide the benefits of all its schemes to the marginalised population.

A marginalised population is a group of individuals or a particular cluster, who, due to various reasons, is socially, economically and educationally marginalised and thus deprived of joining the mainstream of society. There is a large section of such people, which mainly include scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, other backward classes, senior citizens, differently-abled, nomadic-semi-nomadic, transgender persons and beggars. Since independence, society and governments have been making efforts at every level to mainstream them. The Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment was constituted to enable the same. The Ministry is mainly divided into two departments: 1) Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, and 2) Department

of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.

Department of Social Justice and Empowerment

The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment is entrusted with the task of empowering the socially and economically backward target groups. It aims to create an inclusive society in which members of the target groups can lead an active, secure and dignified life through policy support for their development. In this endeavour, the Department is mandated to support and empower its target group, wherever necessary, through programmes for educational, economic and social development and rehabilitation. The target groups of this Department are:

1. Scheduled Castes,
2. Other Backward Classes,

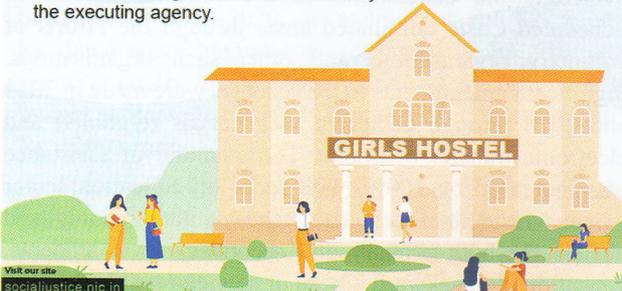


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 DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
 MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
 GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
Annual Action Plan 2020-21
 for the Department of
 Social Justice and Empowerment

Boys and Girls Hostels for Other Backward Classes

- The Scheme aims at providing hostel facilities to students belonging to socially and educationally backward classes, especially from rural areas to enable them to pursue secondary and higher education.
- All states can send proposals for new hostels as per the guidelines of the scheme along with the site availability certificate and the details of the executing agency.



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3. Senior Citizens,
4. Victims of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse,
5. Transgender Persons,
6. Beggars,
7. Denotified and Nomadic Tribes (DNTs) and,
8. Economically Backward Classes (EBCs).

The main objective of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment is the educational, economic and social empowerment of Scheduled Castes (SCs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Economically Backward classes (EBCs) and Denotified and Nomadic Tribes (DNTs); supporting Senior Citizens by way of their maintenance; welfare, security, health care, productive and independent living; Prevention & Treatment of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (Drugs); educational, economic and social empowerment of transgender persons as well as educational and economic development, educational and economic empowerment of economically backward classes, and rehabilitation of beggars.

Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities was carved



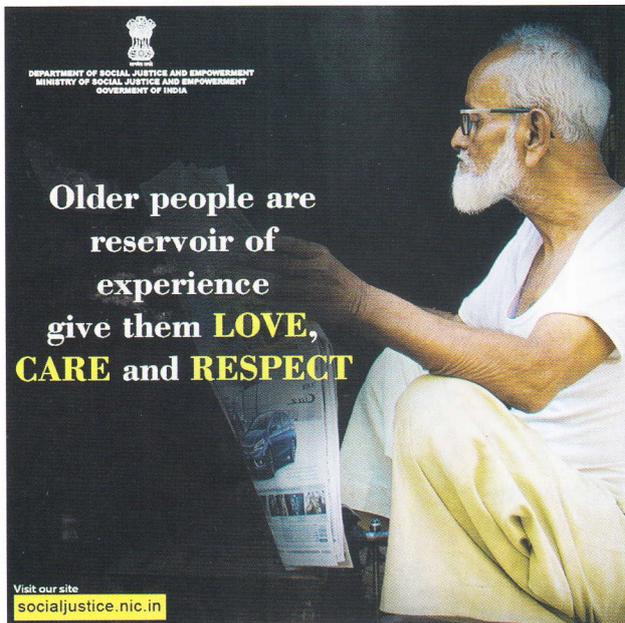
out of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment on May 12, 2012 as Department of Disability Affairs to ensure greater focus on policy matters to address disability issues effectively and to act as the nodal department for greater coordination among stakeholders, organisations, state governments and related Central Ministries. According to the Notification dated May 14, 2016, the Department

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A robust methodology has been adopted to ensure that more and more people get the benefit of the schemes. The Ministry offers various types of scholarship schemes for the educational empowerment of Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes.

has been renamed as Department for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities. The main objective of the Department is to build an inclusive society with equal opportunities and empowering through related legislation/policies/programmed/schemes. Both the departments aim to empower the underprivileged and economically-disadvantaged sections of the society.

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allocation of funds for post-matric scholarship, there has been an increase of about Rs. 3250 crore during the period 2018-19 from Rs. 1800 crore in 2014-15 for SC students which benefitted a total of 60 lakh children. Similarly, an amount of Rs. 2711 crore was given in 2019-20 so far to the states. Also, to ensure better transparency and timely release of funds, the scheme is being implemented online in DBT mode.

The eligibility for the pre-matric scholarship for SC students studying in class 9 and 10 in respect of parents/guardian's income was revised from Rs. 2 lakh per year to Rs. 2.5 lakh per year in 2017, along with a 50% increase in scholarship amount. In the year 2019-20, the committed liability of the state was done away with, and the sharing ratio of 60:40 was adopted between the centre and the states. In cases of North Eastern states, this sharing ratio is 90:10. Accordingly, the budget estimate for 2020-21 has been kept at Rs. 700 crore as against the average of Rs. 300 crore spent annually on the scheme between the years 2015-16 to 2019-20.

Scholarship is provided to the talented SC students of 220 institutions to meet the requirements for tuition fee, living expenses, computer/laptop and other accessories. Expenditure and the number of beneficiaries, which were Rs. 78.11 crore and 5716 respectively in 2009-14, doubled in 2014-19 to Rs. 164.39 crore and 9544 respectively. The annual family income ceiling for eligibility has been increased from Rs. 4.5 lakh to Rs. 6 lakh since the year 2018-19.

For free coaching of SC and OBC students for employment and higher education, a total of Rs.13.10 crore was released during 2009-14 which was increased to 48.33 crores during the period 2014-19. During the same period, the number of beneficiaries doubled from 6126 to 13473.

The main objective of the Central Scheme on grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations working for Scheduled Castes in the education sector is to increase access to developmental interventions of the government and overcome the deficiencies in the education sector in Scheduled Caste dominated areas through the efforts of voluntary organisations and other such organisations. Significant amendments to the schemes were made in 2014 and 2018 through dedicated web portals (e-grants) and electronic transfer of grants. The quantum of assistance was increased by 100%, with focus on education sector namely residential schools/non-residential schools and hostels for both primary and secondary level students, educationally backward blocks or service-less blocks with 40% SC population or new school projects in backward districts identified by NITI Aayog. The financial allocation during the period 2009-10 to 2013-14 was Rs. 148 crore and the number of beneficiaries was 134425. The financial allocation during the period 2014-15 to 2018-19 was Rs 244.72 crore, and the number of beneficiaries was 217407.

Under Pre-matric and Post-matric Scholarship Scheme for OBC/EBC and DNT, six crore (approx) beneficiaries have been covered in respect of educational places during the year 2014-19. The budget estimate for the year 2020-21 is Rs. 1700 crore. National Fellowship Scheme for OBC students has provided scholarships to 5200 students for during the year 2014-19. For social empowerment of scheduled caste communities, the Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana was launched during 2009-10 in 1000 scheduled caste majority villages. In March 2015, it was extended to 1500 more villages. It has now been

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decided to implement the scheme on a pan-India basis covering almost all the 27,000 SC-dominated villages with a certain population by the year 2024-25. The scheme is being implemented in 8296 villages since October 2018. An online system has been put in place for effective planning, monitoring and implementation to identify gaps in the identified indicators from which the Village Development Plan (VDP) can be created through convergence of other schemes and progress can be monitored in this respect. Till February 2020, about 9.5 lakh families have been surveyed, and more than 36 lakh beneficiaries have been identified.

Dr. Ambedkar Medical Aid Scheme was launched in 2009 to provide medical treatment facility to the patients of the economically weaker sections of the scheduled castes and tribes suffering from serious ailments. It has benefited 272 people till 2014, while 1029 people have benefited from 2014 to 2020.

The main objective of Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) is to give a thrust to the development programmes for Scheduled Castes through Income Generation Scheme, Skill Development Programmes and infrastructure development. During the period from 2014-2020, an average of Rs. 827.5 crore has been spent annually as compared to Rs. 701 crore spent annually from 2009 to 2014. Accordingly, the budget estimate for 2020-21 has also been increased up to Rs. 1200 crore.

The Venture Capital Funds Scheme was launched in December 2015 with an initial capital of Rs. 200 crore to promote and provide concessional finance to Scheduled Castes entrepreneurs. Under this scheme, a fund of about 400 crore has been allocated to 107 Scheduled Castes entrepreneurs till February 2020. The objective of a similar scheme for the economic development of OBCs, launched in 2017-18, is to promote entrepreneurs of the targeted beneficiaries through concessional finance for employment generation. Recently, two new schemes VISVAS and ASIIM have been launched to promote entrepreneurship among these sections. Apart from these special schemes, several skill development programmes are being conducted by the Ministry through various Finance Development Corporations besides providing financial support at concessional rates for multiple jobs. From 2014 to May 2020, a total of 15,17,754 SC/OBC/Safaikarmis have been sanctioned self-employment loans to the tune

of Rs. 5778.79 crore through Finance Development Corporations under the Ministry. Similarly, from 2014 to May 2020, various types of vocational training have also been imparted to about 17,67,106 persons at the cost of Rs. 243 crore through these development corporations.

Senior Citizens

The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment is committed to the security, maintenance, welfare and health care of senior citizens. We aim to create an ecosystem where all residing in India lead a happy and dignified life with concrete and synergistic actions to meet the current and emerging needs of senior citizens. According to the 2011 census, the number of senior citizens in India is around 10.46 crore. Research shows that by 2030, 12 per cent of India's population will be over 60 years of age.

While only one scheme namely Integrated Programme for Senior Citizens was being implemented during the period 2009-14, the following significant reforms have been introduced in the year 2014-15 by preparing a strategy for the welfare of senior citizens:

- Implementation of old age homes and electronic transfer of grant money through a web-supported portal (e-grant)
- Greater increase in quantum of the grant amount
- Constitution of Senior Citizen Welfare Fund for new and innovative welfare schemes for senior citizens
- Launch of Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY), which aims at providing free of cost physical aids and assisted-living devices for senior citizens belonging to BPL category who are suffering from an age-related disability. Lakhs of senior people have been given various types of assisted-living devices under this scheme. At a mega camp organised in Prayag Raj in February 2020, assisted living aids and physical devices were distributed to thousands of senior citizens in the presence of the Prime Minister. The National Action Plan for Senior Citizens has been introduced which would operate as an umbrella scheme for senior citizens under which all possible positive actions for senior citizens can be undertaken. The main amendments made to the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens (Amendment) Bill, 2019 are under consideration of the Lok Sabha.

Substance Abuse

The Ministry has conducted the first National Survey on Drug Use in India during the year 2018, as part of the National Action Plan to curb the demand of drugs. The Government now has state-wise data available on individuals using narcotics that will be used to conduct intervention programmes. A national action scheme formulated to cut down on drug demand for the period

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Government of India

NASHA MUKT BHARAT ABHIYAAN
TYPES OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE IN INDIA

Depressants (Sedatives)
-Alcohol, Barbiturate, Rohypnol

- Made with fermentation process
- Slows down Central Nervous System
- Poor concentration
- Loss of hand eye coordination
- Loss of balance & limb control

Hallucinogens
-Psychedelics, LSD, MDA

- Found in liquid, tablet or capsule form
- Cause sensory and perceptual distortions
- Altered sense of space and time
- Nausea, paranoia, Anxiety, Jumbled thoughts
- Mood Swings, Impaired Judgments
- Long term panic attacks

Dissociative
-Ketamine, Dextromethorpha (DXM)

- Slows down Central Nervous System
- Feeling of nausea
- Experience respiratory depression
- Causes tremors and numbness

National Toll Free Helpline for Drug De-addiction
1800-11-0031

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2018-2025 aims at prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of affected individuals and their families through a multi-pronged strategy to curtail adverse results of drug abuse. An amount of Rs. 219.12 crore has been released under this program from the year 2018-19 to till date. Under NAPDDR, an amount of Rs. 260 crore has been allocated for the year 2020-21. Due to the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic, the country was under complete lockdown for almost three months. It has resulted in cropping up of a variety of problems among the drug users, due to which Ministry's de-addiction helpline received much more calls than before. For its alleviation, the experts at drug addiction centres spread across the country have been counselling the affected persons.

Rehabilitation of Beggars

The Ministry has released an amount of Rs. 3.2 crore to National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) and National Institute of Social Defence (NISD) to conduct skill development programmes for persons engaged in begging. An amount of Rs. 100 crore has been allocated under the new scheme for comprehensive rehabilitation of beggars for the year 2020-21. To prevent the beggars from the effects of the current Covid-19 pandemic, the Ministry has specially allocated an amount of Rs. 100 crore to various districts to provide food or other necessary items.

Welfare & Empowerment of Transgender

For the welfare and empowerment of transgender persons, the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, has been enacted. The Ministry has almost finished the work of framing rules under this Act and organising housing, health camps and welfare schemes like skill development for transgender persons. So far, 12 skill

development training programmes have been organised benefiting about 355 transgender persons. Health camps have benefited of about 265 transgender persons. An amount of Rs. 10 crore has been allocated for the welfare of transgender persons for the year 2020-21.

The Development and Welfare Board for De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Communities (DWBDNCs) has been constituted for the De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities. The functions of the board are:

- to formulate and Implement Welfare and Development programme as required, for De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Communities,
- to monitor and evaluate the progress of the schemes of Government of India and the States/UTs regarding De-notified Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Communities,
- To redress the grievances of DNTs communities and fulfil their expectations.

The Anthropological Survey of India is conducting an ethnographic study of 62 tribes/communities which have not been included in the Central List of Scheduled Castes / Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes.

Persons with Disabilities (PwDs)

We believe that persons with disabilities (PwDs) are an integral part of human resources. The Government is continuously making efforts for their empowerment and creating an inclusive society for them and their empowerment. The Prime Minister addressed persons with disabilities as 'Divyangjan', thus giving a new identity to them, which has become the symbol of their glorious life today. We have launched various new schemes for their empowerment. In some schemes, policy changes have also been introduced so that these schemes can be implemented appropriately according to their goals. Our Government is increasing the budget provisions for empowerment of PwDs in a sustained manner. A provision of Rs. 560.00 crore was made in 2013-14, while a provision of Rs. 1204.90 crore has been made in this financial year, which is more than double of 2013-14.

In 2020-21, a budget provision of Rs. 1325.39 crore has been made, which is 10 per cent more than the previous year. Our Government has passed the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, which is a crucial step in the direction of empowerment of PwDs. The old PwD Act was welfare-based, whereas the RPwD Act is a right-based Act. It prohibits any form of discrimination on the right to disability. The types of disabilities have been increased from 7 to 21. The reservation in jobs has been increased from 3 per cent to 4 per cent and reservation in higher education from 3 per cent to 5 per cent. In this Act, a provision has been made to create an accessible environment for their education, skill development, health,

rehabilitation and for participation in sports.

According to List-II of the Constitution, empowerment of persons with disabilities is the subject matter of the state government. But the Government of India is supporting the efforts of the states through its schemes. All the schemes of this Department are central schemes. Therefore, the implementation of these schemes is done in collaboration with the State Governments and Union Territories and depends on the timely demand and utilisation certificates received by them.

Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP Scheme):

- a. From 2014-15 to May 2020, 9194 camps have been organised in which 16.43 lakh PwDs have been benefited and accessories and equipment worth Rs. 968.43 crore have been distributed,
- b. For Cochlear Implants, 186 hospitals have been listed, and 2555 surgeries conducted,
- c. 18040 motorised tricycles have been distributed,
- d. 10 Guinness World Records have been made.

The Government launched the Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan in 2015. Under this, Rs. 443.63 crore has been released for 1152 state government buildings and retrofitting has been done in 998 central government buildings. An accessible environment has been created in 35 international airports and all 69 domestic airports. Facilities have been provided at railway stations towards making them accessible. 5244 buses have been made accessible. The websites of 368 state governments have also made accessible, and so are the 95 central government websites.

Scholarship Scheme for Disabled Students

This scheme has been fully implemented from 2014-15. Before this, there was only a National Fellowship Scheme which was available only for M. Phil. and PhD Divyang students. Now 6 component schemes: Pre-Matric, Post-Matric, Top Class, National Overseas, National Fellowship and Free Coaching have been implemented. In the current year, 88143 differently-abled students have been awarded scholarships worth Rs. 266.91 crore. Earlier, the skill development training of PwDs was inadequate. In 2013-14, only 570 PwDs were given skill development training whereas from 2014 to May 2020, 101206 PwDs have been trained under various skill development programmes.

Specialised Unique Disability Identity (UDID) Project

It is an initiative of our government under which we are creating a national database of PwDs. Under this, we

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have set the target to give a unique identity to all PwDs. This scheme has been implemented in all states and union territories, and till May 2020, 48.97 lakh UDIDs cards have been issued in 707 districts.

National Institutes and Composite Regional Centres

Before 2014, only 7 National Institutes and 8 Composite Regional Centres (CRCs) were there. At present, there are a total of nine national institutes and 20 Composite Regional Centres.

Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre

This is a new national institute established by the government in 2015. The institute has developed a dictionary with 6000 words and expressions.

National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation

The Union Government has decided to set up this institute in Sehore (Madhya Pradesh). Presently, work has started in the temporary building. The total cost of this project is Rs. 179 crore.

Centre for Disability Sports

Setting up of this centre is also an initiative of our government. It is proposed to start a Centre for Disability Sports in each of the five regions of the country. During the current Finance Commission tenure, consent has been obtained to set up centres in Gwalior and Shillong. Work of the centre in Gwalior costing Rs. 170.99 crore has already been started. This centre will provide training to about 300 disabled players every year. The proposal for the remaining three centres will be put up to the 15th Finance Commission.

Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Motivational Charitable Trust of England for modern wheelchairs. ALIMCO's new production unit has been set up in Ujjain. State-of-the-art Limb Fitting Centre has been established in Faridabad. Our Government is modernising the corporation at the cost of Rs. 338.04 crore so that the disabled people can get the benefit of modern equipment. Arrangements are being made for this in national institutions and seven composite regional centres.

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